

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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WILLIAM R. LYONS,

Case No. 3:13-cv-00250-MMD-WGC

Plaintiff,

ORDER

v.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,
et al.,

Defendants.

Before the Court is the Report and Recommendation ("R&R") of the Honorable William G. Cobb, United States Magistrate Judge, entered on July 25, 2013 (dkt. no. 5), regarding Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis* (dkt no. 4) and Plaintiff's Complaint (dkt. no. 1-1). The R&R recommends that Plaintiff's Application for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis* be granted, but that Plaintiff's Complaint be dismissed with prejudice.

Plaintiff William R. Lyons filed an objection to the R&R on August 7, 2013. (Dkt. no. 6.) This Court "may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate." 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Where a party timely objects to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, then the court is required to "make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the [report and recommendation] to which objection is made." 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Where a party fails to object, however, the court is not required to conduct "any review at all . . . of any issue that is not the subject of an objection." *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 149 (1985). Indeed, the Ninth

1 Circuit has recognized that a district court is not required to review a magistrate judge's
 2 report and recommendation where no objections have been filed. See *United States v.*
 3 *Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114 (9th Cir. 2003) (disregarding the standard of review
 4 employed by the district court when reviewing a report and recommendation to which no
 5 objections were made); see also *Schmidt v. Johnstone*, 263 F. Supp. 2d 1219, 1226 (D.
 6 Ariz. 2003) (reading the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Reyna-Tapia* as adopting the view that
 7 district courts are not required to review "any issue that is not the subject of an
 8 objection."). Thus, if there is no objection to a magistrate judge's recommendation, then
 9 the court may accept the recommendation without review. See, e.g., *Johnstone*, 263 F.
 10 Supp. 2d at 1226 (accepting, without review, a magistrate judge's recommendation to
 11 which no objection was filed). The Court, considering Plaintiff's Objection to Judge
 12 Cobb's ruling dismissing the Complaint with prejudice, engages in a *de novo* review to
 13 determine whether to adopt Magistrate Judge Cobb's R&R.

14 Plaintiff's Complaint seeks \$39,000 in retroactive Supplemental Security Income
 15 ("SSI") from the Social Security Administration ("SSA") for benefits Plaintiff was denied
 16 between 2001 and 2003. In his correspondence with the SSA, attached to Plaintiff's
 17 Complaint, the SSA indicated that the "law prohibits retroactive benefits to beneficiaries
 18 or their representative payees while the beneficiary is a prisoner" and that Plaintiff or the
 19 prison should contact SSA before Plaintiff is released. (Dkt. no. 1-1 at 19.) The R&R
 20 likewise found that under the "No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009,"
 21 which became Public Law 111-115, the SSA is prohibited from paying retroactive
 22 benefits to beneficiaries or terminated beneficiaries while they are incarcerated. As it is
 23 undisputed that the benefits Plaintiff seeks are retroactive SSI benefits and that Plaintiff
 24 is currently incarcerated, the Court finds that Plaintiff may not receive retroactive SSI
 25 benefits at this time. The Court therefore finds that Plaintiff had failed to state a claim
 26 upon which relief may be granted.

27 It is hereby ordered that Magistrate Judge Cobb's Report and Recommendation
 28 (dkt. no. 5) is accepted and adopted.

1 It is therefore ordered that Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma*
2 *pauperis* (dkt no. 4) is granted.

3 It is further ordered that Plaintiff's Complaint (dkt. no. 1-1) is dismissed with
4 prejudice.

5 The Clerk of the Court is instructed to close this case.

DATED THIS 16th day of April 2014.


MIRANDA M. DU
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE